

Tailgate/Toolbox Topics



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Roofing Safety: General Requirements

Construction safety Orders 1724 and 1730 were written to prevent accidents involving falls from roofs during roofing operations. Such falls are the cause of many serious injuries in the roofing industry.

This topic covers Section 1724, General Requirements. Section 1730, Roofing Hazards, is covered in another tailgate/toolbox topic.

Suggestions

Review the summary of Section 1724 with the employees and go over the order's requirements with them – point by point. Stop from time to time for their questions.

After you complete the summary, have the employees take a quick look around the worksite to see whether the requirements of the safety order are actually being met. When they have completed their inspection, create a discussion by using the following question as a guide.

Discussion questions

During your inspection, what safety problems did you discover?

- ◆ Did you find hazards not covered by the safety order?
- ◆ How can these hazards be eliminated?
- ◆ What conditions cause the most falls in roofing operations:
 - ◆ Carelessness by workers?
 - ◆ Unsafe working conditions?
 - ◆ Hazardous weather conditions?

Summary of Safety Order 1724

Crawling Boards, Chicken Ladders:

- ☐ Make crawling boards at least 10 inches wide and 1 inch thick.
- ☐ Nail on cleats spaced no more than 24 inches apart, and bend over the nail points underneath.
- ☐ Whenever possible, extend crawling boards from the ridgepole to the eaves.
- ☐ Install firmly fastened handholds made of ¾ inch Manila rope for each crawling board.

Catch Platforms:

- ☐ Extend them at least 2 feet beyond the projection of the eaves.
- ☐ Provide them with 42-inch railings and 4-inch toeboards.
- ☐ Make sure they are fully planked.

Highlight Material trucks:

- ☐ Use standard railings and toeboards on the open sides of the platform, when it is used as a work surface and 7-1/2 feet above the level underneath.

Ramps and runways:

- ☐ Make them at least 40 inches wide when used only for loading or unloading roofing materials at heights up to 20 feet.
- ☐ At heights above 20 feet, equip them with standard guardrails.
- ☐ Secure them against accidental movement.
- ☐ Install cleats or other adequate traction when the slope is 2 feet or more for each 10 feet.

Resources:

Cal/OSHA Guide for the construction Industry
Contact a Cal/OSHA district office for copies.

Health & Safety Guide for the Commercial Roofing Industry
Booklet No. 78194 from:

NIOSH
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226